

Bradycellus csikii Laczó (Col.: Carabidae) discovered
in Suffolk

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Originally described as a colour variety of *Bradycellus harpalinus* (Serville) by Laczó (1912), *Bradycellus csikii* Laczó was later raised to specific rank by Schauberger (1933). The beetle remained undetected in this country until Lindroth (1971) reported his discovery of a single male taken by G. C. Champion at Woking, Surrey, among the long series standing as *B. harpalinus* in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Although there appear to be fairly constant external differences between *csikii* and *harpalinus* which seem to be useful when taken in conjunction, the only reliable characters to facilitate the separation of the two species seem to be those of the male genitalia — *vide* Lindroth (1971, 1974).

As far as I can ascertain, no further British specimens of *csikii* have been detected since Lindroth's unique discovery. Dr. M. L. Luff who has over one hundred contributors to his British Carabidae Distribution Scheme informs me — *in litt.* 18.12.78 — that he too is unaware of further records of *csikii* in this country.

On May 8th 1977, I took a single dark *Bradycellus* while sifting moss on the edge of a chalk pit at Little Blakenham, near Ipswich, Suffolk (TM 14). Subsequent examination showed that, using external characters, the insect appeared to agree perfectly with Lindroth's descriptions of *csikii* (1971, 1974). Fortunately, the beetle was a male, and dissection of the aedeagus appeared to lend further support to my determination. Not having any comparative material, however I submitted the specimen to Mr. P. M. Hammond who confirmed my provisional determination, stating (*in litt.*), that it agreed on every point with their material at the British Museum.

This record provides interesting confirmation of the continued presence with us, of what we can only tentatively label at the present time, as an *apparently* rare and very local species. I know that many Coleopterists have looked, in vain, at innumerable *harpalinus* in the hope of turning up *csikii*. Only by continuing to do so, will we be able to clarify the status and distribution of *csikii* within this country. It is fortunate that there are many workers who specialise in the British Carabidae, and it is to be hoped that, before long, further records may be forthcoming.

In view of our present sparse knowledge of *csikii* in this country, it may be of value to conclude by listing the other Carabidae taken from moss on the heavy chalky soil where *csikii* was found: — *Calathus fuscipes* (Goeze), *Amara aenea* (Degeer), *A. plebeja* (Gyllenhal), *Harpalus* (*O.*) *schaubergerianus* Puel, *H. rubripes* (Duftschmid), *Badister bipustulatus* (Fabricius), *Bradycellus verbasci* (Duftschmid), *Metabletus foveatus* (Fourcroy). According to Lindroth (1974), *csikii* occurs mostly on clayish soil on the continent.

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References

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Notes and Observations

BOOK TALK TWO. — Described as handy, comprehensive yet succinct, H. T. Stainton's *A Manual of British Butterflies and Moths* was, a century or more ago, probably the most popular and without doubt the least expensive book of its kind on the subject. Indeed, until fairly recently, one could still buy the two volumes for a few shillings, but having now become a collector's piece it seems, a current bookseller's catalogue lists it at £15, and in another it is priced at £16.50.

Published by Van Voorst, the work originally came out in 33 parts with printed wrappers, each part consisting of about 24 pages, the first part appearing in 1856 and the last in 1859. However, the book is seldom found in that state. In the usual edition, which is relatively common, there is no indication that the work was issued in parts, and the title page of volume 1 bears the date 1857 and that of volume 2, 1859. Details of the parts in volume 2 and their exact dates of publication, will be found in a Note by T. Bainbrigge Fletcher in *Entomologist*, 1930, **63**: 187-188.

An interesting feature of the *Manual*, is the number of interleaved annotated copies in existence. One such example bought from E. W. Classey for 10s at an A.E.S. show, belonged to V. R. Perkins (1831-1922) and contains numerous early manuscript entries relating to Gloucestershire lepidoptera. Another annotated copy from the same source for which a mere 5s was paid, belonged to Sydney Webb (1837-1919) of Dover, who possessed one of the finest collections of British lepidoptera ever formed.

Most of the localities cited in the *Manual* are apparently of lists of lepidoptera that Stainton received from correspondents, whose names curiously enough he fails to mention or their help even to acknowledge. I happen to know though that Messrs. Sircom of Brislington and P. H. Vaughan of Redland contributed the Bristol records, and am almost certain the Rev. S. C. Tress Beale furnished the records for Tenterden and Alkham, and J. Jenner Weir those for Pembury, but one can only guess at the names of the contributors for the other localities. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

¹ Book Talk One appeared in *Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 186.